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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in combination:

a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge thereof, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate member; and yieldable friction material over substantially the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

2. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient compressible material.

3. A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein the yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like material.

4. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

5. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main plate member.

6. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

7. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

8. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary plate to the main plate member.

9. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

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10. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

11. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

12. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum thickness of the nose piece.

13. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

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14. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the main plate assembly.

15. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

16. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

17. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

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18. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 17 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum thickness of the nose piece.

19. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

20. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the main plate assembly.

21. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 20 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main plate member.

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22. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction matrial is between 5/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

23. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

24. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

25. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary plate to the main plate member.

26. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the main plate assembly.

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27. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in combination:

a main rectangular plate member having front, rear, upper and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a short distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the distance between the lower and upper edges of the main backing plate member and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate member; and yieldable friction material attached to and covering substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

28. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient compressible material.

29. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main plate member.

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30. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 3/8" and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

31. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

32. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 31 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

33. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 further including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary plate to the main plate member.

34. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 33 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

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35. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

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